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MEMORIAL WINDOWS
CENTENARY METHODIST CHURCH
October 2, 1955

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Centenary Methodist Church

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.

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Memorial Windows

DEDICATED

October Second

One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Five

Our Memorial Windows

THESE memorial windows were installed by George L. Payne of Paterson, New Jersey, American representative of J. Wippell and Company, Ltd. of London and Exeter, England. The windows were imported from England where they were designed and made of finest quality, hand-blown English antique glass. These windows represent skilled craftsmanship and artistry and recall the magnificent art of the Gothic churches and cathedrals of England and France during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

Stained glass was a well developed art in England at least a hundred years before Chaucer created an epoch in English literature, and the "glasswright", as he was then called in England, has left many sparkling examples of his artistic genius in such buildings as the cathedrals of Canterbury and Salisbury, the churches of York, and the cathedrals of Wells and Lincoln.

The four nave windows illustrating the life of Christ are approximately seven feet wide and thirty-two feet high. The great north window portraying the majesty of the Christian faith is approximately ten feet wide and twenty-eight feet high. The rose portion at the top of each window is seven feet in diameter. Each panel in the transept windows is two feet wide and six feet high.

A brief description of the themes with their prophetic and apostolic witness and symbolism is herewith presented.

The scripture references are from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

The Majesty of the Christian Faith

The rose portion of this window with the Eternal City in the center is symbolic of the Heavenly Jerusalem.

Heavenly hosts are shown streaming down from heaven proclaiming Christ as Lord. Our Lord crowned as King, holds in His hands the orb and scepter, symbols of temporal power; (the orb is symbolic of kingly power and justice and the scepter is the emblem of authority.) His robe and the seraphs beside Him are red symbolizing blood, fire, Christian zeal, the work and ministry of the Church.

Α and Ω, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, near the hem of the King's robe, signify, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (Rev. 22:13)

At the feet of the seraphs are angels of sorrow and joy. The angel of sorrow (*left*) is shown hiding her face in remorse while the angel of joy (*right*) is shown proclaiming the glad tidings.

The emerald rainbow is symbolic of hope and growth in the Christian life. In the rainbow are symbols of the Four Evangelists; (*left to right*) the winged lion represents St. Mark; the winged bull represents St. Luke; the winged man represents St. Matthew; and the eagle represents St. John.

At the ends of the rainbow may be seen a pelican and a phoenix. The "Pelican-in-her-Piety" (*left*) is a Christian symbol of the Atonement. This comes from an old fable in which it was believed that the pelican, during times when food was scarce, tore a hole in her breast and fed her young with her blood. The phoenix (*right*) legendary bird signifying the resurrection stems from the ancient fable about a strange bird that came up from the ashes of the fire in which it had been burned and was therefore regarded as an emblem of resurrection.

Beneath the arch of the emerald rainbow is the most used and most authentic symbol of the Holy Spirit, the descending dove with the baptismal shell in its beak.

The Last Supper appears across the lower portion of this window. Judas' foot and the purse with thirty pieces of silver, emblematic of the betrayal of Christ by Judas, is seen in the lower right corner. The mother and child (*center beneath the Last Supper*) with the five-pointed star, symbolic of the virgin Mary, bring back the majesty of Christianity to the end of life on earth which began with the divine birth.

The left and center panel of this window are given in memory of James Alexander Gray and his wife, Aurelia Bowman Gray and the right panel is given in honor of Bess Gray Plumly.

Christ the Child

THE CREATIVE HAND OF GOD—*Top center medallion*, ". . . the righteous and the wise and their deeds are in the hand of God; . . . ." (Ecc. 9:1) The hand is the most ancient symbol of the first person in the Godhead.

ANNUNCIATION—*Upper right medallion*, "And he came to her and said, 'Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!' " (Luke 1:28)

SALUTATION—*Upper left medallion*, ". . . an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; . . . .' " (Matt. 1:20)

THE NATIVITY—*Upper center*, "And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger." (Luke 2:16)

THE PRESENTATION—*Middle left medallion*, " . . . they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. . . . ." (Luke 2:22)

DOMESTIC LIFE—*Middle right medallion*, "And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him." (Luke 2:40)

THE BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE—*Lower Center*, "After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; . . . ." (Luke 2:46)

FISH OF BAPTISM—*Lower left*—The Greek initials of the phrase, "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour," spelled *ichthus*, the Greek word for fish. The symbol was linked with baptism. Three fish arranged approximately in the form of a triangle signify that Christians are baptized ". . . in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; . . . . ." (Matt. 28:19)

FLAME OF CONFIRMATION—*Lower right*—This symbol is based on the story of Pentecost in which the Holy Spirit is represented indirectly as seven flames. "And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, ... " (Acts 2:3)

This window is given in memory of Madison D. Stockton and his wife, Martha Vaughn Stockton.

Christ the Man

THE DOVE AND SEVEN GIFTS—*Top Center Medallion*, ". . . and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form, as a dove, ..." (Luke 3:22). The dove with the tri-radiant nimbus is one of the earliest forms used to represent the Holy Spirit and is the most beautiful of all symbols used in Christian art.

Surrounding the dove are seven flames, representing the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one." (I Cor. 12:4-6)

BAPTISM AT JORDAN—*Upper Left Medallion*, "Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him." (Matt. 3:13)

SUMMONS OF PETER AND ANDREW—*Upper Right Medallion*, "And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' " (Matt. 4:19)

SERMON ON THE MOUNT—*Upper Center*, "And he opened his mouth and taught them," . . . (Matt. 5:2)

FIRST MIRACLE IN CANA—(Water changed to wine), *Middle Left Medallion*, "This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, ..." (John 2:11)

FIRST PARABLE—THE SOWER—*Middle Right Medallion*, "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God." (Luke 8:11)

THE TRANSFIGURATION—*Lower Center*, ". . . after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his countenance was altered, and his raiment became dazzling white. And behold, two men talked with him, Moses and Elijah, . . ." (Luke 9:28-30)

HEADS OF WHEAT—*Lower Left*, Symbolize the Bread of Life.

CLUSTER OF GRAPES—*Lower Right*, Symbolizes the blood of Christ. These symbols are used in Holy Communion to represent the body and blood of Christ.

This window is given in memory of Sihon Cicero Ogburn and his wife, Emma Kapp Ogburn.

John Wesley Preaching From A Market Cross

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist church, is shown here preaching from a market cross (a stone cross frequently seen at the square in English villages). He said, "I look upon all the world as my parish." He also said, "Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." His last words were, "The best of all is, God is with us."

The Four Symbols (*in the corners*) represent the four evangelists. Left to right: the angel—Matthew, the bull—Luke, the lion—Mark, and the eagle—John. The left lancet of this window is given in memory of Charles Dewitt Cromer and his wife, Carrie Crutchfield Cromer. The right lancet is given in memory of Mary S. Ferrell.

Francis Asbury As A Circuit Riding Methodist Preacher

Francis Asbury, sent to America from England in October, 1771, by John Wesley, became the second bishop of the Methodist Church. The greatest of the "circuit riders," he rode on horseback or in a carriage 270,000 miles and preached 16,000 times. He crossed and recrossed the uncharted Appalachians more than sixty times. Bishop Asbury had no home, a boarding place, or an address save "America."

The four symbols left to right, The Book (*top left*) (verbum Dei) The word of God and The Fountain of Life (*top right*)—"The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, that one may avoid the snares of death." (Proverbs 13:14). The Olive Branch (*lower left*) symbol of peace, concord and healing. The Pilgrim Staff (*lower right*) "He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; . . ." (Mark 6:8). The left lancet of this window is given in memory of Robert Baker Crawford. The right lancet is given in memory of Leonard Anderson Vaughn and his wife, Laura Candler Vaughn.

Christ, the Saviour

THE LAMB OF SACRIFICE—*Top Center Medallion*, The lamb with its head surrounded with a three-rayed nimbus, significant of divinity, is symbolic of the suffering lamb of sacrifice. This is one of the most beautiful of all ancient symbols of our Lord.

THE LAST PARABLE—*Upper Left Medallion*, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

AGONY IN GETHSEMANE—*Upper Right Medallion*, "And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground." (Luke 22:44)

BEFORE PILATE—*Upper Center*, "And Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' " (Luke 23:3)

FLAGELLATION—*Left Center Medallion*, "And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on him." (Mark 15:17)

PROCESSION TO CALVARY—*Right Center Medallion*, "And there followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him." (Luke 23:27)

THE CRUCIFIXION—*Lower Center*, "When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier." ". . . . but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene." (John 19:23, 25)

SYMBOLS OF CHRIST'S SUFFERING—*Lower Left*, The bag of money, the hammer, the ladder, nails and scourge. (*Lower Right*)—Pincers, seamless robe, reed with sponge, spear, Mary, his mother, and dice.

This window is given in memory of John Wesley Hanes and his wife, Anna Hodgin Hanes.

Christ the Lord

THE PEACOCK—*Top Center Medallion*—In the early church, the peacock was a common symbol of resurrection. When the peacock molts, he grows new feathers, more brilliant than those which he lost.

DESCENT FROM THE CROSS AND THE ENTOMBMENT—*Upper Left and Right Medallions Respectively*—"Now there was a man named Joseph from the Jewish town of Arimathea." ". . . This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb, where no one had ever yet been laid." (Luke 23:50-53)

EASTER MORNING (The three Marys at the tomb)—*Upper Center*—"And entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed." (Mark 16:5)

THE APPARITION (Jesus appears to Mary)—*Left Center Medallion*—"Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rab-bo'ni!' (*which means Teacher*). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; . . . . .' " (John 20:16, 17)

CHARGE TO PETER—*Right Center Medallion*—"Jesus said to him, . . . 'Follow me!' " (John 21:22)

THE ASCENSION—*Lower Center*—"So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, ..." (Mark 16:19)

CROWN AND PALMS OF VICTORY—*Lower Left Medallion*—A crown is used as a symbol of the kingly office of Christ." . . . for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, . . . "(Rev. 17:14)— The palms, like the crown, signify the victorious Christian's reward. ". . . I looked, and behold, a great multitude . . . . before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, . . ." (Rev. 7:9)

GREEK MONOGRAMS—*Lower Right Medallion*—Greek for: Jesus Christ and Christ the Victor.

This window is given in memory of John Wesley Alspaugh and his wife, Celeste Tucker Alspaugh.

The Builders Window

The center lancet portrays our Lord as teacher and founder (holding the Word of God). This lancet is in memory of Charles C. Weaver under whose ministry Centenary and West End were united and this church was built.

The left lancet portrays Saint Peter as builder and honors James G. Hanes, who was chairman of the building committee.

The right lancet portrays Saint Luke as scribe and honors Edgar R. Clapp, who was secretary-treasurer of the building committee.

West end (*left*) and Old Centenary (*right*) at the bottom of this window united to build the present Centenary (*center*). The opening services in this church were held September 20, 1931, and the church was dedicated October 19, 1941.

Other Memorials and Gifts

The Sanctuary Organ was given in memory of John W. Hanes and his wife, Anna Hodgin Hanes, by their children.

The Hanes Memorial Chapel was given in memory of Pleasant Henderson Hanes and his wife, Lizora Fortune Hanes, by their daughter, Miss Katherine J. Hanes.

The Dining Room was furnished in memory of Mrs. Nannie W. Norfleet by her daughters, Miss Dell Norfleet and Mrs. James Early.

The Board of Stewards Room was furnished in memory of James K. Norfleet by his son, Charles E. Norfleet.

The Susanna Wesley Class Room was furnished in memory of Mrs. M. D. Stockton, by her children.

The Silver Altar Service, (*flower vase and eight plates*) was given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Hanes by their daughter, the late Mrs. S. D. Craig.

A number of prints of the great religious masterpieces for the Educational Building were given by Miss Dell Norfleet.

The late S. C. Ogburn established "The Emma Kapp Ogburn Scholarship Fund" in memory of his wife. The income from this fund is designated to be used toward the education of young women preparing to enter full time Christian service.

The late M. D. Stockton established a trust fund, the income from which is designated for the support of missions.

The late James A. Gray established a trust fund, the income from which is designated for the support of our "parish abroad" representatives.

The Ada Dandridge Dalton legacy established "The Charles D. Dalton Memorial Fund," the income from which is designated for use in helping the needy in Centenary Church and in the community.

The late John W. Alspaugh established a substantial trust fund under his will, the income from which, after the death of his wife, is designated to be used primarily for the care of needy members of Centenary Church.

In addition to the above memorials, many generous gifts have been received by the church, all of which it would not be practical to list here.

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